

Wycombe W. made to fight for win

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS. 6 : BARKING 4

ALTHOUGH they held a 2-1 interval lead, Wycombe Wanderers had to pull out all the stops to beat the lowly-placed Essex side, Barking, 6-4 in an Isthmian League game this afternoon.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Moring; Truett, Fisher, Weaver; Rockell, Trott, Bates, Howson, Free.

Barking: Sime; Ford, Lever; Webster, McCarthy, Blake; Hammond, Lewis, Cutting, Lees, Payne.

Referee: J. G. Birch (London).

With Barking starting off at a great pace, Wycombe escaped in the first minute, when Truett took the ball off the feet of Lewis after a dangerous cross from Cutting.

The exchanges were fast, with plenty of lively incident. Four Wycombe defenders converged on the menacing Cutting, when he broke through on his own. Goalkeeper Brown had plenty to do.

EMPTY GOAL

Trott should have scored for Wycombe when he dispossessed the goalkeeper but his shot at the empty goal lacked power and centre half McCarthy ran back just in time to clear.

But Wycombe took the lead after eight minutes, when Bates taking a pass from Truett scored with a brilliant shot.

It gave Syme no chance.

Barking almost scored when Brown fumbled a shot from Lewis, and they continued to show plenty of punch. They deservedly equalised in the 26th minute when LEES shot from the left-wing and the ball went in off the post.

Wycombe hit back again and seven minutes before the interval BATES put them ahead again.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Barking 1.

Wycombe set the pace early in the second half with good moves engineered first by Weaver and then by Rockell, but Barking covered well.

At the other end a shot from Cutting skimmed the crossbar and the Wycombe backs only just managed to clear a centre by Payne. Then Bates had a sparkling solo run for Wycombe, Trott heading his pass just wide. Truett saved Wycombe with a sliding tackle when Cutting broke through, but after 19 minutes of the second half LEES equalised.

Almost straight from the kick-off BATES scored again for Wycombe.

With both sides maintaining a cracking pace four goals came in four minutes. WEAVER scored for Wycombe, but almost at once LEES got away and completed his hat-trick for Barking.

GETS SIXTH

A minute later BATES converted a penalty and the home applause had hardly had time to die down before TROTT lobbed the ball over the head of the advancing keeper to record Wycombe's sixth.

Diehard Barking never gave up and almost in the last minute of the game BLAKE added their fourth.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 6
BARKING 4

BATES LEADS WYCOMBE GOAL-RUSH

Wycombe W. 6, Barking 4

WYCOMBE sharpshooter Paul Bates led a goal-a-minute scoring spree which wrecked sprightly Barking. One hectic spell produced four goals in four minutes in the seven-goal second half.

There were times when Barking, showing their best form of the season, looked like holding confident Wycombe to a draw.

Their speedy forwards allowed the home defence no respite, and 20-year-old Brian Lees, outstanding at inside left, claimed a brilliant hat-trick.

Webster and Lever had a steady influence in the Barking defence, and Wycombe, whose passing was sometimes erratic, were a little lucky to lead at the interval with two goals from Bates to one by Lees for Barking.

The enterprise of wingers Hammond and Payne enabled Barking to hit back strongly in the second half, and when Lees levelled the scores it was anybody's game.

But Bates, in sparkling form at centre forward, started a scoring flurry which brought five goals in rapid succession.

Weaver made it 4-2 for Wycombe, and although Lees claimed his third for Barking a minute later, Bates restored the two-goal lead from a penalty.

Trott scored Wycombe's sixth by coolly lobbing the ball into an empty net when goalkeeper Sime advanced to meet him.

Stubborn Barking, refusing to give up, snatched a fourth goal in the last minute through left-half Bill Blake.